

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe DeVito (chair), Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Peter Harrington, Lisa Langone, Officer Jim O'Loughlin, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephan Ross, Robert Staulo. Students: Brandon Harris, Kipaya Kapiga, Sarah Laski, Kira Mascho, Katie Sanders

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Beverly Droz, Matt Green, Joanne Kazarian, Terance Sack

Staff: J. David Naparstek, Commissioner of Health and Human Services

The meeting was opened by Chairperson Joe DeVito at 7:00 PM with introductions. New members were Lisa Langone, who works in both the AYS and Youth Outreach programs by Riverside Community Care, and Youth Officer Jim O'Loughlin.

Minutes of the June 13, 2006 meeting were accepted. Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. No changes were made.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that the Commission has a budget appropriation of \$2,500 for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 (7/1/06 – 6/30/06). This amount is the same as previous years.

Old Business

Donna felt that the program for the year should focus on predators on the Internet. The consensus was that there should be two programs, one for middle school students and one for their parents. A number of possible models were mentioned, including: Medford Police Department, Norfolk County Police Task Force, Martha Coakley, Northeastern University, and Rich Catrabone. It was felt that the PTOs should be invited to co-sponsor the program. Joe will contact them. Donna and Stephanie will provide Joe with the contact information for the South, Brown, Oak Hill, North, Bigelow, and Day PTO presidents. This is an agenda item for the next meeting.

October 15 Autumn Invasion event: Brandon gave an update on the solicitation letters that were sent out; no positive responses have been received to date. He will contact Bev for follow-up. Stephanie reported that at our summer committee planning meetings, we agreed to investigate vendors that can be recruited to sell age-appropriate food at a reasonable price. Vendors pay Parks and Recreation Department for the vendor space at their events. Judy Dorr has the name of a particularly helpful vendor. Stephanie is contacting him. Committee members still plan on soliciting donated food such as donuts and cookies, and feel it will be okay to provide such free food to the attendees as long as it does not compete with the vendors. Sarah has contacted the Newtones and they are interested in attending. Kipaya has contacted last year's bands and is waiting for replies. Steve Ross felt that there should be TAB publicity focusing on the members of the participating bands. Peter will develop the press releases; posters

should be made for the middle and high schools. Lisa volunteered to photograph the event for future publicity.

There was a discussion about recruiting a well-known college or professional sports figure to serve as a draw. This person would be invited to speak for about ten minutes, and then stay around for questions and autographs. Letters have been sent to BC, BU, the Boston Red Sox, Celtics and others. BU responded saying they could not send a coach because it was in conflict with their regulations since they recruit from our high schools. Peter will contact Jim Corsi of the Red Sox. The next Autumn Invasion subcommittee meeting will be held on September 20 in Bev's office at 6:00 PM.

Fund Raising

Peter suggested that another bake sale be held at Back to School Night, which is from 7:00 – 9:30 PM on September 28. He also felt that the booklet on safe parties should be handed out at that time. Donna suggested that it might be more appropriate to hand them out at the October freshman drug and alcohol information night.

New Business

David introduced the issue of the biennial Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which has been a joint project of the Commission, Health Department, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and Newton Public Schools. He noted that the Commission had contributed towards the funding over past eight years, but understood the budget limitations on the Commission this year. He felt that the Commission should continue to be a co-sponsor, since it is a survey of the community, not a survey of the school department. The schools are the convenient location to conduct a survey, but it is not a reflection of school programs and services. Donna noted that the survey information is important to the schools and community organizations serving youth. The consensus was that the Commission should co-sponsor this endeavor if the school department is able to conduct it. It will assist with funding if it is able to.

Youth Foundation

The Youth Foundation Subcommittee is waiting for a Law Department review of the Articles of Organization prepared by Peter. There should be more to report in October.

Joe announced that the Youth Interagency Task Force will be meeting on September 20; he noted that it has proven to be a very successful model for sharing information and coordinating services. It has been successful in conducting a youth needs survey and in developing an excellent resource guide.

Peter asked about the symposia that were held last year, Freedom from Chemical Dependency. Donna and Lisa indicated that it was well-received by the students. It cost \$750 per school. This item will be discussed on the October agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 4 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria.